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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for this moment of quiet in which we can reaffirm who we are, whose we are, and why we are here. Once again we commit ourselves to You as Sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. Our ultimate goal is to please and serve You. You have called us to be servant-leaders who glorify You in seeking to know and to do Your will for what is best for America.

So we spread out before you the specific decisions that must be made today. We claim Your presence all through the day. Guide our thinking and our speaking. May our convictions be based on undeniable truth which has been refined by You.

Bless the women and men of this Senate as they work together to find solutions to the problems before our Nation. Help them to draw on the super-national resources of Your spirit. Grant them divine wisdom, penetrating discernment, and courageous vision.

And when the day draws to a close may our deepest joy be that we received Your best for us and worked together for what is best for our Nation. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Today, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2937, a bill regarding the White House Travel Office. The Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. today in order to accommodate the respective party luncheons.

Under a previous order, the first vote today will occur at 2:15 p.m. and will be on the cloture motion to the White House Travel Office bill. As a reminder, in conjunction with the cloture vote today, Senators have until 12:30 p.m. to file second-degree amendments to the bill. Other votes are likely throughout the day on H.R. 2937 or any other items cleared for action.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators to speak for not to exceed 5 minutes each, with the following Senators reserving time: The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] is recognized for 60 minutes; the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] is recognized for 15 minutes; the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] is recognized to speak up to 5 minutes.

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

AMERICA IS ON MY MIND

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and thank my good friend, the distinguished Senator from Texas, for allowing me to speak for about 5 minutes leading off today. Again, when

we come to this time of the year, America does weigh strongly on everybody's mind, because I rise today to celebrate tax freedom day.

Actually in Montana, it comes around May 3, but I did not get around to getting my work done on time, and I would like to talk about that just a little bit. The average American will work 128 days this year to pay for the Federal, State, and local taxes and sets a new record high for this country at 38.2 percent of his or her yearly income.

Now, think about that a little bit. We wonder why our bank accounts do not grow and our savings accounts are almost nonexistent, and we think about stagnation. It is not really stagnation, it is trying to pay for this moderately huge Government that was talked about back in January by our President who said the era of big government was over, and now he says "it is kind of over."

In my State of Montana, for an average family of four making around \$39,000, \$40,000 a year, to average it out, Federal taxes come to \$7,400. Total State and local taxes are around \$5,700. Mr. President, \$13,216—and this has all been verified—is the tax burden of that family of four living in my State of Montana. One-third—one-third—of the money they earn is going to the support of government. And we wonder where our money goes.

So the President's words ring sort of empty. The words do not match the actions. Then we have to decide whether we want to go on with this kind of rhetoric, because he vetoed the balanced budget, he vetoed the tax cut, he vetoed welfare reform, he vetoed product liability—all those contribute to a mounting, mounting tax burden. Contrary to popular belief, government has not always been big or moderately huge, as this would indicate.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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